

MASON'S
MONTHLY
COIN AND STAMP
COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

Vol. 4. OCTOBER, 1870. No. 10.

PUBLISHED AT \$1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE,

BY MASON & CO.,

No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philadelphia.

S. A. Bavis & Co., Printers, No. 23 S. Tenth St.

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THE MINT AT PHILADELPHIA.

(Continued.)

The brass cast is fastened to the large wheel at the right hand side of the lathe. On the small wheel to the left of the cast is fastened a piece of soft steel, on which the design is to be engraved. Both of these wheels revolve in the same way and at the same speed. There is a long iron bar or lever fastened by a joint to an iron support at the extreme left, which runs in front of the two wheels. A spring at the upper end draws it in toward the wheels. Fastened to the lever is a pointed steel stud, which touches the cast. A very sharp "graver" is fastened to the lever below, which touches the steel. The wheels revolve, and the stud, when it is pushed back by the heavy relief of the cast, forces back the lever, which draws back the graver, and prevents its cutting the steel. So where there is a raised place in the cast the graver is prevented from cutting into the steel, but where there is a depression in the cast the graver cuts the same in the steel.

As the lever is jointed at the left, the nearer the graver is placed to that end the less motion it will have. So that the distance of the steel from the joint regulates the proportion of the reduction from the cast. After the graver has cut one small shaving around the steel, a screw is turned, which lowers the right end of the lever slightly, just enough to allow the graver to cut another shaving, and the stud to touch the cast a very little further from the centre. Thus the graver cuts a very little at a time; but the work is cut over several times, until the design is sufficiently blocked out. This machine will not finish off the die perfect enough to use; but it reduces the design in perfect proportion, and performs most of the rough work. The original dies for coins being now all made, the lathe is used mostly for medals, of which a great many are struck, by order of Congress, for various purposes. A very fine one was presented to the Japanese while they were in this country. There is now in the machine a cast of Washington's bust, merely to show how the cast is placed.

After the die comes from the lathe it is finished off by hand, and when all polished is a beautiful piece of work. It is still very soft,

requiring to be hardened before it can be used, which is done by heating it very hot, and holding it under a stream of water until cold. The relief is exactly like the coin—that is, the device is raised as in the coin. It will not do to use this in stamping, as it would reverse the appearance of the coin. Therefore this “hub,” or “male die,” as it is named, is used only to make other dies.

Round pieces of very soft steel, a little larger than the die, are smoothed off on the top, the centre being brought to a point a little higher than the sides. It is placed on a solid bed, under a very powerful screw press, and the hub placed on top of it—the centre of the hub on the point of the steel, like a seal on the sealing wax. The screw is turned with great force by several men, and presses the hub a little into the steel. It is necessary to have the steel higher in the centre, as, if the centre impression is not taken first, it cannot be brought out sharp and distinct. The steel is softened again by being heated and allowed to cool slowly, and the operation is repeated. This is done several times, until the whole impression is full and distinct. If there is any little defect it is rectified with the engraver's tool. The surplus steel around the edge is cut off, and the date put in by hand, when it is hardened and ready for use. The date is not cut on the hub or the first die—which is called a “female”—as perhaps the hub will last for two years, and the date cannot be altered. This die is never used to stamp with, but preserved, so that if the hub breaks it can be used to make another. The dies for use are prepared in the same way. About thirteen hundred a year are made for the various Branch Mints, and those for the New Orleans Mint were sent just before the State seceded, which the authorities have not had time to return. Sometimes a die will wear for a couple of days, and again they will break in stamping the first coin. Steel is treacherous, and no dependence can be placed in its strength. As nearly as can be ascertained their cost is sixteen dollars a pair.

(*To be continued.*)

ENGLISH SILVER COINS, FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

ARRANGED BY E. M., JR.

[Selected from Ackerman's Numismatic Manual, now out of print.]

(*Continued.*)

HENRY VII, 1485.

First Coinage.—Obverse.—The money of this king's *first* coinage is only distinguished by the weight from that coined by Henry VI; some of the half groats and pennies have a key on each side of the bust.

Reverse.—The reverse is still like those on the coins of the preceding kings, though on some the cross branches out from a hollowed lozenge, or masle, in the centre.

Rarity.—None of the first coinage are rare except the penny,

which is of the very highest rarity; the half pennies are somewhat scarce.

Last Coinage.—Obverse.—This king issued a new coinage in the eighteenth year of his reign with a type very different from that of his first coinage. The head was exhibited in profile and crowned with an *arched* crown on his half groats, groats and shillings, the latter appearing for the first time. The penny had a full length figure of the king sitting in a chair of state, with the sceptre in his right hand and the globe in his left; the other coins have full-faced portraits.

Reverse.—The reverse also underwent a change. The three pellets, which must weary the eye of the collector, were discarded, as was also the inner circle of the larger coins, and the arms of England quarterly, on a shield, were substituted.

Rarity.—At a sale in London, in 1827, the shilling of Henry VII, with numerals, brought three pounds, eleven shillings. The groat, with HENRIC SEPTIM, ten pounds, fifteen shillings. The penny with the arched crown, six pounds, eight shillings and sixpence. The other coins are more or less common.

HENRY VIII, 1509.

First Coinage.—The money of Henry VIII, previous to the eighteenth year of his reign, resembles his father's in every respect, with the exception of an additional I to the VII after the name; but the statute of the fourteenth and fifteenth year of his reign enacts that the farthing shall have a portecullus (portcullaise) on one side, and a cross with a rose on the other, as the farthings of Henry VIII and Henry VII, then current, could not be distinguished from each other. None of these farthings are at present known.

Rarity.—The Tournay groats, coined when Henry was in Flanders, are very rare. Some have the head and some are without it; the latter are much rarer than the others. They may be known by the legend on the reverse, CIVITAS TORNACI, or TORNACENCIS, which usually occupies the place of POSVI, etc. The full-faced penny is of the first rarity. The half groats are less common than groats; but the half groats of Cardinal Wolsey, marked T. W., and of Archbishop Bainbridge, X. B., are rare.

Coinage of his Thirty-fourth Year.—Obverse.—The money of this coinage was debased nearly ten per cent. The head is almost full-faced, but a little inclined to the left, and is, to all appearance, a *likeness*.

Reverse.—There is no difference in the reverses, except an annulet at each end of the cross; but the testoon or shilling has a full-blown rose, and above it an arched crown. On each side of the rose are the letters H. R., both crowned. On these pieces he is styled king of Ireland.

Rarity.—The base shilling is rare, as are also the shillings of the country mints, and the half penny. The rest are common.

Coinage of his Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh Year.—Obverse.—

The money was again debased in his thirty-sixth year, and consisted of *one half silver and one half alloy*. In his thirty-seventh year it was debased to one part fine and two of alloy. The coins have the appearance of brass and are generally much defaced. The testoon, penny and half penny have the portrait full-faced.

Reverse.—The reverses are the same as on the pieces of the preceding coinage. Snelling mentions a testoon of this coinage with the legend, REDDE CVI QVE QVOD SVVM EST.

Rarity.—The same as that of the coins of his thirty-fourth year. Folkes mentions a piece weighing four hundred and sixty-four grains, which he supposes is a quadruple testoon, but which some are inclined to think is a *medal*.

(*To be continued.*)

THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE,
*Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst,
 Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth,
 Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.*

(*Continued.*)

The Ruby is, chemically, the same as the Sapphire except so far as it is affected by its coloring matter. It ranks next to the Diamond in value. A fine specimen of the Oriental Ruby is rarer than even the Diamond itself. Anciently it went by the name of carbuncle, as it does occasionally now. It is a species of silex or quartz, and therefore participates in the natural hardness of that stone. As its name indicates, it is red in color—a carmine red—and a very beautiful ornament for the “ornamental sex.” They are found in Hindostan, in Ceylon, in Bohemia and Hungary.

The largest Ruby known is said to be in the imperial Russian crown, in which it is placed under the cross. It was bought for the Empress Anne, in Peking, for 120,000 roubles, by her ambassador to that city.

Tavernier gives drawings of and describes several remarkable Rubies he saw in the East.

First is one that belonged to the King of Persia, nearly as large as an egg and of that shape, of deep color and of unknown weight. It had been for many years in the treasury of that monarch.

The second figure is that of a stone sold as a Ruby to Giaferkan, uncle of the Great Mogul, for 95,000 rupees (\$235,000), and presented by him to the Emperor. A discharged old jeweler of the King, having found some opportunity of examining it, declared that Giaferkan had been deceived, that it was not a Ruby, and was not worth over 500 rupees. The King's jewelers were convened to decide upon the matter, and they declared their belief in its genuineness. As in the whole empire of the Great Mogul there was no person more skilled, it was believed, in the knowledge of precious stones than Shan Jehan, then detained a prisoner at Agra by his son, Aureng Zebe, the latter sent the stone to his father, begging his

opinion. He confirmed the views of the old jeweler, and said it was not worth more than 500 rupees. The stone having been brought back to Aureng Zebe, it was returned to the merchant who sold it, and he was forced to disgorge the money he had received for it. This stone was of an egg shape.

The next is a view of one weighing seventeen and a half carats, in the possession of the King of Visapour, of the shape of half an egg. It is well cut and of the greatest beauty. It was bought in 1653, for 14,200 new pagodas (about as many dollars).

We have then described one "weighing fifty and three quarters carats, of the second water, uncut, and almond shaped. It was offered to me at Banarous for 55,000 rupees."

Tavenier says that Rubies were so scarce in Asia that he found it profitable to take them thither from Europe to sell.

He says he found them so preciously guarded that a merchant would never show a Ruby, even if a insignificant one, unless you agreed to give him some trifling present, as a cap or belt, in case you did not buy.

He speaks of one weighing five carats, found in Bohemia, and presented by General Wallestein, Duke of Fridland, to the Viceroy of Hungary.

In the Green Vault at Dresden there is a pair of Ruby ear-rings, which have been valued at 24,000 thalers, though at present they would probably bring a much higher price, owing to these gems being greatly in fashion. The above sum would be about 18,000 of our dollars. The English crown contains a large heart shaped Ruby.

Ludovicus Vatomannsus, a lying old Roman, says the King of Pegu, in India, had a Ruby which could illuminate a dark room as brilliantly as could the sun!

Andreas Baccius says in his book, *De Natura Gemmarum*, that if danger approaches the wearer of a Ruby, it will turn black, and upon the danger being past, resume its color again.

Nicols relates the following of Baccius and a Ruby he possessed enclosed in a gold ring: "On the fifth of December, 1600, he was traveling with his wife, Catharina Adelmania, to Studgard, and in his travel he observed his Rubine to change its glory into obscuritie, whereupon he told his wife, and prognosticated that evil thereupon would ensue either to himself or her, which accordingly did; for not many days after, his wife was taken with a mortal disease and died, after which he saith his Rubine of its own accord did again recover its former lustre, glory, beauty and splendour."

(To be continued.)

WHAT CONSTITUTES A SET OF AMERICAN CENTS?

BY T. W. T.

Should this interrogatory be proposed to a hundred of our best skilled and most scientific numismatologists, how vastly different

would be the numerical replies. But this proposition would first resolve itself into the more generic inquiry, "What really comprises a difference in kind?" a question, a direct and specific answer to which would embody a conglomeration of opinions according to the peculiar idiosyncrasies of each adept (?) who should utter judgment.

If a slight difference in the arrangement of stars; the distance of stars from each other, from any particular point or from the date; the spacing, size or general slope, slant or direction of the figures in the date constitute a separate kind or variety, then the labyrinth only becomes the more complicated, and *infallibility* is as foreign to the proficient's claim, in this instance, as would it be were he the veritable Pope of Rome.

Judging solely from much written authority upon this matter, there has been much misrepresentation and more errors on the one hand, and a lack of well skilled optics and well directed discernment on the other. Take, for instance, the cents of 1816, 1818, 1819, 1834, 1835 and 1842. Allowing the line of division of varieties to run close, there are of the above dates several distinct varieties of each, whereas many writers upon the subject have been able to discover but two.

The question which heads this communication, then, is one of peculiar interest, and one which ought, as a necessity and imperative demand of the science of numismatics, to provoke discussion; but brave must be he of *sterling* knowledge who dares announce the figures that would prove his make or ruin as an accepted guide.

HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM,

(Continued.)

NOVA SCOTIA.

1. C. Obv.—Bust of Victoria to left, laureated and draped. "VICTORIA D : G : BRITT : REG : F : D : " Rev.—Crowned date, 1861, within a beaded circle, the whole surrounded by a wreath composed of the rose and May-flower. "ONE CENT NOVA SCOTIA." Plain edge.

2. C. Obv.—Same as No. 1. Rev.—do. do., do., "HALF CENT."

There are issues of Nos. 1 and 2 bearing date 1862 and 1864, all plain edge.

3. C. Obv.—Small bust of George III, to right, laureated and draped. "HALF PENNY TOKEN 1815." Rev.—Ship in full sail to right. "PAYABLE BY JOHN ALEXR. BARRY. HALIFAX." Plain edge.

4. C. Obv.—Large bust of George III, otherwise same as No. 3. Rev.—Same as No. 3.

5. C. Small bust of George III, to right, laureated and draped; within a circle, "HALF PENNY TOKEN. 1814." Rev.—Front elevation of Government House. "PAYABLE BY HOSSTERMAN & ETTER. HALIFAX." Plain edge.

6. C. Large bust of George III, without the circle, date "1815," otherwise the same as No. 5. Rev.—Same as No. 5. Although bearing a larger bust this coin is much smaller than No. 5.

7. C. Obv.—A large bust of George III, to right, laureated and draped. "HALF PENNY TOKEN, 1814." Rev.—A frigate under sail, to right, "PAYABLE BY CARRITT & ALPORT HALIFAX." Edge milled.

8. C. Obv.—Military bust, to left, "BROKE HALIFAX NOVA SCOTIA." Rev.—Britannia seated. In the distance to left two ships, "BRITANNIA 1814." Edge milled.

9. C. Obv.—Indian with bow and arrow. A dog by his side. "STARR & SHANNON HALIFAX. 1815." Rev.—Ship under sail, to right, "HALF PENNY TOKEN NOVA SCOTIA." Edge plain.

10. C. Obv.—Indian as on No. 9. "COMMERCIAL CHANGE." Rev.—Same as No. 9.

11. C. Obv.—A cask marked "Nails and Spikes," between a scythe-blade and sickle; above it two spades crossed. "PAYABLE AT W. A. & S. BLACK'S HALIFAX N. S." Rev.—Front view of a house. "WHOLESALE & RETAIL HARDWARE STORE 1816." Edge plain.

12. C. Obv.—Same as No. 11. "HALIFAX NOVA SCOTIA." Rev.—Same as No. 11.

(To be continued.)

COUNTERFEIT ANCIENT COINS AND MEDALS, AND THE ART OF DISTINGUISHING THEM FROM THE TRUE.

(Continued.)

MEDALS CAST FROM THE MODERN BY FORGERS, WHO, WANTING GENIUS TO ENGRAVE DIES, ARE CONTENT TO MOULD THEM FROM THE PADUAN AND OTHER MASTERS.

These are sometimes more difficult to discern than the former, because that, in casting them, they give them what thickness they please; and filling with mastic the little cavities which the sand leaves, they retouch the letters with a graving tool, and masque the imposition with varnish. However, most of the instructions given for the first class likewise avail in this, with another distinction, which is, that coins of this class are always much lighter than the true medals of their size, because fire rarifies the melted metal, while that which is struck is condensed, and becomes of consequence more weighty.

Those which are cast in gold or silver, either in this way or from the antique, betray themselves, as these metals admit no varnished imitation of rust.

The marks of the file on the margin of these form a sure badge of falsity, as in the first class: but it must be observed that these marks, in gold or in silver coins, by no means declare them modern, when they constitute the sole suspicion, for the ancient Romans often filed coins in these metals, that they might be enchased in rings, around vases, or the like, as we sometimes have quarter guineas, etc., inserted in the bottom of punch ladles.

It is a common trick, in this class of counterfeits especially, to cover a false coin with wax, then pricking it on the margin, to drop aqua fortis into the holes. This destroys the sides of a coin more effectually than if it had been eaten into by time. The amateur must be upon his guard against this fraud, which is not easily distinguishable, and bear it in mind, that a medal eaten into on the sides may yet be modern, and a filed medal of gold or silver may, notwithstanding this suspicious appearance, boast indubitable antiquity.

(*To be continued.*)

NUMISMATIC NOMENCLATURE; OR, THE COIN COLLECTORS' LEXICON.

BY E. MASON, JR.

(*Continued.*)

Scratched.—Ragged incisions; marks caused by contact with any hard substance, pointed or keen.

Set.—Arranged as a complete series in regular order of issue.

Sharp.—Designs well cut and prominently defined.

Shell.—Thin metallic impression, taken from a die or hub or made by electrotyping.

Singed.—Over-heated; slightly burned.

Sized.—Covered with a glutinous matter to prevent corrosion.

Sixteenths.—Used to express diameter or size of a piece by the American scale of inches, 14-16 being equal to 7-8 of an inch in diameter.

Slanting Figure.—Used to discriminate between varieties in date, as in the case of the straight and slanting figures of 1855 United States copper cents.

Store Card.—A metallic or other business token, having thereon the address or name of a business firm.

Straight Figure.—See *Slanting Figure*.

Sweated.—Soaked in acid until reduced in size.

(*To be continued.*)

GREEK AND ROMAN COINS.

"A series of an emperor's coins is his life digested into annals." *Addison.*

COMPILED BY E. M., JR.

(*Continued.*)

GREEK CIVIC COINS.

Coins of Ægina—Various Denominations of Greek Silver Coins—Copper Coins, with their Divisions—Gold Coins of Sicily of an Early Date—Small Gold Coins of Cyrene—Gold Coins of various Cities in Greece—List of Coins of Cities using Greek Characters.

EUROPE.

CHALCIS.

Head of a female, to the right.

Reverse.—XAΛ, an eagle with a serpent in its claws, in the field a trophy —AR.

Some have the addition of a crescent.

ELEUSIS.

Ceres in a car drawn by winged dragons.

Reverse.—EΛEYΞ, a sow walking, to the right.

ACHAIA.

Laureated head of Jupiter to the right.

Reverse.—Monogram of Achaia within a laurel garland.—AR.

CORINTH.

Most of the coins of Corinth have the head of Pallas on the obverse, reverse a pegasus. Some have a trident.

SICYON.

Ξ I, a chimera walking, to the left.

Reverse.—A dove flying, to the left, in the field AO; the whole in a laurel garland.—AR.

LACEDÆMON.

A bearded head, to the right.

Reverse.—AA.EIII.ETPTKAE.OΞ, a club, the whole within a laurel garland.

ARGOS.

The fore part of a wolf, to the left.

Reverse.—AAP, in an indented square.—AR, or ΛAE, underneath a bird perched on a club.—AR.

EPIDAUROS.

Laureated head of Esculapius, to the right.

Reverse.—AΞ KAHIII Ξ ΩTHP Ξ, a serpent entwined around a staff;

Or head of a lion full faced.

Reverse.—EI.—Æ.

ARCADIA.

APKAΛIΩN, head of a female, within an indented square.

Reverse.—Jupiter, turning to the left.—AR.

GORTYNA (CRETA.)

A young female sitting on the trunk of a tree.

Reverse.—TOPTYNION, a bull.—AR.

(To be continued.)

THE FEWSMITH COIN CABINET.

For the last time previous to the public sale of this extensive and valuable collection of coins and medals, known as the "Fewsmith Cabinet," we call attention to its merits, in the hope that collectors will not miss the opportunity of securing some one of the various pieces to be found in the large catalogue of this sale, which is to take place at the auction rooms of Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co., New York, on the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th inst.

We advise all persons attending the sale not to forget their catalogues, as it will be impossible to obtain them at the auction rooms. The great demand for the catalogues of this sale evinces a deep interest in the collection, and we can only argue from these premises that the sale will be well attended and moderately successful in a pe-

cuniary sense. One word to our subscribers in closing, or such of them as receive catalogues without even once sending on a bid. We are at great expense mailing catalogues of every sale to each non-bidding subscriber, and the present year the postage bids fair to exceed in amount our subscription price for the magazine. Under these circumstances, and in view of forthcoming sales, we solicit from each of our patrons desiring catalogues of all future sales, a bid, however small, for the sale of the 4th inst. To all bidders we shall most assuredly mail catalogues in future, and to others we can only send catalogues when a surplus is left after our regular distribution to bidders. It should be borne in mind that sale catalogues are intended for the use of buyers; it matters not to whom they send bids, the fact of a purchase or an intention to purchase entitles them to a catalogue.

COIN EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

I will give a Norwalk-Washington medal in white metal, brilliant proof, for any five different brilliant proof silver three or five cent pieces, or three uncirculated quarter dollars, dated prior to 1860. An 1816 cent, fine; an 1817 cent; obverse, dark; reverse, bright and uncirculated; 1818 cent, cracked die; obverse, bright and uncirculated; reverse, dark; or an 1850 cent, perfectly uncirculated, for any perfectly uncirculated American, Spanish or Mexican silver quarter dollar, dated prior to 1845. A small proof set of 1870 for any uncirculated dime or half dime, prior to 1850. Lincoln medal; "He is in glory," etc.; brilliant proof; size 37; for any uncirculated half dollar, between the dates 1800 and 1870. Five nickels; proof; 1859, 1862, 1865, 1869, 1870 and a proof two cent piece, 1870, for any uncirculated or extra fine foreign silver coin of the size and value of twenty-five or thirty cents, and dated prior to 1820. Johnson's Public Reception medal, in copper and tin; limited number issued, and dies destroyed; proof; scarce; for any uncirculated or extra fine silver dollar, between the dates 1800 and 1850, or uncirculated gold dollar of any date prior to 1869, or 1869 or 1870 proof gold dollar, or any six different uncirculated dimes prior to 1845. Fine set of plates from Mackensie's catalogue, for an extra fine dime of 1814, 1820, 1825, 1832, 1833, 1834 or 1842. Send to B. B. ROMANS,
Mortonville, Pa.

MONTHLY COIN CURRENT.

We shall shortly issue a Monthly Priced Coin Current exhibiting, by regular dates, such coins as we have on hand, monthly, with their retail prices marked; also showing condition of each piece. These coin charts will be sent to any address free of postage.

MAGAZINES WANTED.

A few January, 1870, numbers of this journal wanted, at 25 cents each; also, February, 1870, numbers, for which 50 cents will be paid.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. W., CAZENOVIA.—Thanks for compliments on coin catalogue and bids at last sale. You were lucky in obtaining the stamps so low.

R. M. Y., TOWANDA.—There was not a "*quantity*" of counterfeits in the sale of the 8th ult. in the generally accepted use of that term. There were two stamps returned as bogus and there may have been a few reprints.

B. Q., RONDOUT.—Have sent you a package as requested. Shall make up another of medals soon.

R. P. N., NORWICH, ENGLAND.—Have sent you all the numbers of the present volume, commencing with March. Many thanks for list of coin and stamp dealers. Shall make an effort to supply you with back numbers. Hope you received the catalogue of the four days' coin sale.

T. W. T., HOLMES' HOLE.—Your communication appears in this number. It is needless to say it is well written and full of interest to numismatists and will, no doubt, elicit further investigations and additional articles in pursuance of some settled policy in regard to the vast number of varieties which afflict and mystify collectors of our country's coinage.

H. G. L., HYDE PARK.—Have mailed the "Flags of All Nations," and the New England shilling.

P. R. S., NEW YORK.—Our new packet system will soon be inaugurated with a great reduction in the price; also, new catalogue, with fifty per cent. reduction on a large majority of the stamps. We fill orders now at twenty-five per cent. reduction on catalogue prices when ordered by the set or in packets.

M. L., WOBURN.—Yours at hand. A sale of autographs will be announced in a future number; also, a sale of relics, minerals, fossils, Indian implements, etc. Some very rare and valuable things in each sale.

P. S., JR., RONDOUT.—There are several varieties of the '93 issue. Your impression is from the Liberty cap cent of 1793. Value \$10.

THE FOUR DAYS COIN SALE.

NEW YORK, October 4, 5, 6 and 7.

A short time only to elapse when the result of the public sale of the valuable Fewsmith cabinet will be fully known. We anticipate a large audience at the sale, and, from present prospects, there will be sharp competition over some of the rarities of the collection. This sale presents a rare opportunity to obtain almost any known American coin or medal. For variety, rarity and condition of pieces this collection stands almost alone.

Parties delayed in sending bids by mail will please remember that bids are received at the auction rooms, by telegraph, each day of sale. Address Mason & Co., care of auctioneers, Clinton Hall, Astor Place, New York.

Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

NEW ISSUES.

GREAT BRITAIN will issue a stamp of the value of half penny, or one cent of our money, on the first of October. The design consists of the head Victoria in centre, with $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on each side; the stamp will be oblong, and about one-third smaller than the 1 penny stamp; the color will be pale pink; they are reported to be printed 480 on a sheet. This, we think, is the largest number of stamps that has as yet been printed together. Correspondence cards will also be issued at the same time, and we presume will have the new stamp impressed on them. This government will shortly issue the half penny post cards. The post cards are 4 4-5 inches by 3 2-5 inches, bordered with the simplest key pattern between two lines on a colored ground. Near the top is the royal crown surmounted by the words "POST CARD," and below are the words "THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE. To—————." At the upper right hand corner is the stamp, rectangular; Queen's head to left, in circle; HALF PENNY in block letters below; corners filled in. Reverse, left blank for open correspondence. The whole impression is lilac on cream color. These cards will be issued in sheets perforated.

SPAIN.—We have lastly to chronicle four additions to the current set, type similar to that of the rest. There is a 4 m. de esc., orange-buff, and a 10 m. de esc., pink; these are on paper of the same consistency as the others now in use. The lowest two values are on much thicker paper; the 2 m. de esc. is black on salmon; the 1 m. de esc., plum brown on a similar but not identical tint. What possible postage these two values can represent is a mystery that remains to be fathomed. We presumed no collection will be wanting in them, knowing one dealer who has ordered 30,000 already. Our Bath contemporary states that the 10 m. will not be issued till the exhaustion of the current emission bearing the 10 in numerals. It has, however, been in use some time, having appeared previously to the lower values. A word of caution to inexperienced collectors may not be out of place, respecting certain fictitious varieties which have been lately manufactured. We refer to the Spanish stamps surcharged "Y $\frac{1}{4}$." We have seen this abbreviation struck in deep blue ink on the 1, 2 and 4 milesimas, and 12 c. of the new series, on the 2 reals Spanish of 1856, the 12 c. of 1860 and a number of others. The absurdity of the addition in connection with most of these values will be at once manifest. A stamp, value $1\frac{1}{4}$ or $2\frac{1}{4}$ milesimas should deceive nobody, but there might be a chance of collectors being taken in by a 2 reals bearing the surcharged Y $\frac{1}{4}$, and it is, therefore, as well to warn our readers that no Spanish stamp has ever been thus marked, and that varieties showing this surcharge are entire worthless.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—We have just received, through the kindness of an esteemed correspondent, a copy of a new stamp for this country, but whether it is a local for Montevideo, or is intended for some special service, is not stated. The design consists of the bust of some worthy with his hair parted in the middle, in oval, which is enclosed in a frame inscribed R. A. above, 20 CENTS below, OFFICIO to to right, PARTICULA on the left. The head has a decided Spanish American appearance, and the bust appears to be attired in the modern style. It is printed in pale blue on white paper, and is perforated. The specimen before us is on the left hand corner of the envelope, and is postmarked Montevideo, March 30, 1870. On the right hand corner of the envelope is a regular 5 centavo Argentine Republic stamp, which is postmarked Buenos Ayres, March 22.

ROUMANIA.—It is reported that a new type is being prepared at the Imperial Mint for this principality. Meanwhile the 2, 4 and 18 bani, color on white, have received a companion, value 3 bani. There are three varieties thereof: two shades of a rich mauve-lilac, and a single individual on each perfect sheet, showing a variation in the form of the figure 3.

ANGOLA.—The new stamps for this Portuguese colony have at last appeared, as follows:

5 reis, black.	25 reis, pale pink.
10 reis, orange.	50 reis, green.
20 reis, pale brown.	100 reis, lilac.

ST. THOMAS AND PRINCE'S ISLAND.—

5 reis, black.	25 reis, brick red.
10 reis, bright yellow.	50 reis, green.
20 reis, light brown.	100 reis, lilac.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—The last philatelic importation from the seat of war is a field-post envelope for the use of the soldiers of the Prussian army. It is an ugly looking affair, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches by about $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches, printed on paper of a brownish white hue, and without any device of an ornamental character. Above is the inscription FIELD-POST BRIEF, and in the right hand upper corner a circle to contain probably the post mark. Lines are left for inserting the army corps, the division, number of regiment, company, squadron and battery; also, of course, for the name of the addressee. On the back are various instructions of the usual order, and a place for the name of the sender. It is certainly an article of more use than beauty.

DENMARK.—We may anticipate the appearance of a goodly number of essays for the new 48 sk., for no less than eight types were proposed by the engraver, of which the one engraved last month was accepted, leaving seven for the use of collectors only. Two of the rejected closely resemble the chosen design, differing only in slight details; the third has the figure of value in a shield, surmounted by a larger crown, with DANMARK POSTFRIMÆRKE above, and value below; the fourth resembles the adopted type, but has a triangle at each corner: the fifth has the same frame as the fourth, but the figure

of value is on a small circle in the centre of a fancy design; the sixth has a fancy design stretching from side to side; the seventh has the figure in an oval, and the space between it and the inscribed oval contains a Greek pattern. It is hardly necessary to quote the colors of of the first proofs seen, as, no doubt, they will be rainbow series.

FRENCH REPUBLIC.—Rumors are current that postage stamps of the late French empire have been issued in the south of France, having an eagle printed on the bust of Napoleon; but the report cannot be traced to any reliable source. It will surprise us greatly to receive the new stamps of France (said to be in course of preparation) bearing republican emblems of Liberty and Equality. In the present condition of France postage stamps must give place to powder and ball, and are not to be thought of until peace is announced between the blustering belligerents.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—A new stamp has just made its appearance for this colony, and is probably the forerunner of a series. It has been engraved, we presume, by the Canadian Bank Note Company, and is to some extent a reminder of the 5 cents New Brunswick, both in type and size. The portrait is in the same style, but is a fresh engraving, and the face looks even younger and more childish than on the New Brunswick stamps. It is contained in an oval, which is nearly surrounded by a border, inscribed PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POSTAGE; and below, within scroll ornaments, appears the denomination, 3D. STG.—CY. 4½ D. The frame also consists of scroll work. The stamp is unwatermarked, perforated and printed in a warm brown on white.

MAURITIUS.—The sixpence is now printed of a dark green hue, and, says our Belgian contemporary, the one shilling blue has been withdrawn from circulation, and replaced temporarily by the 1 s. yellow, pending the exhaustion of the stock of the 2 d. blue, the identity of color having brought about a confusion of the two stamps. As to the reported changes in color of the ninepence, of which Count de P. possesses a specimen in green, the postmaster of Mauritius says there never has been any idea of issuing a new tint, as he still possesses more than £4000 worth of the violet.

BOLIVIA.—It may be as well to notice here that there has been an extensive manufacture of blue 5 centavos, obtained by steeping the green of the "fourth period" in acid. These blue stamps are of a deep color, approaching to indigo, and have a very new look about them. *Caveat Emptor.*

HOLLAND.—Rectification of colors of the unpaid letter stamps; the 5 c. is brown on orange, the 10 c. carmine on blue. The colors originally given were those of proof copies.

PORTUGAL.—M. Mahe announces the approaching emission of a lithographed set, superceding the cameo designs hitherto exclusively adopted in that kingdom.

SWEDEN.—The *Timbre Poste* chronicles a change in the hue of the 17 ore, which is now lilac slate.

ST. DOMINGO.—There has lately appeared another variety of this very changeable series; the UN real is now printed in lilac grey on ordinary paper, and gummed.

TRINIDAD.—The 4 d., cc. and crown watermark stamp of this island is now of a very beautiful blue violet

POSTAGE STAMP SALE.

Our first sale of foreign and American postage stamps, by auction, in New York, September 8, was not a marked success, either in point of attendance or pecuniary results, it having met with unlooked for opposition by envious, not to say *jealous*, rivals in the same line of business. Long before the sale we were solicited by a New York dealer to unite our proposed sale with one of the same character, in view, by said dealer. This was *hint No. 1*. We declined the proffered aid wishing to sail our own boat in our own way. Soon after this declension we received a New York philatelic journal containing a reference to our proposed sale there, and the kind editorial remark: "We wish our *confreres* every success, but should have thought it would have been better to have sold in Philadelphia." This was *hint No. 2*. In a subsequent issue of said journal, we received the following *kick*, under the caption of "Auction Sale.—This sale was arranged by Mason & Co., and was held at the rooms of Messrs. Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co., the scene of the former sale; but, we are sorry to say, it was not so well attended. This was owing to it not having been properly advertised."

In reply to the above, we would say that the most thorough distribution of catalogues was made prior to the sale, and this same carping, self-eulogistic critic received seventy-five catalogues for distribution, in ample time to advertise the sale. It is true, we did not send a full page advertisement to the aforesaid journal, fully relying upon our own method of advertising in the New York papers, and by circulating six hundred catalogues over the entire country. We are prepared to show that our bids for patrons at the sale of the 8th ult. were far in advance of prices that were, *by force of circumstances*, obtained at that sale, and notwithstanding the startling assertion in the *New York Journal* that we "purchased 207 out of the 464 lots," we can show a bona fide bid for every lot we purchased. Can the publishers of the *American Journal of Philately* show the same record, by their books and papers on the sale of stamps which preceded that of the 8th ult.?

Another postage stamp sale is announced for the 3d of the present month, composed of the "private collection of a Brooklyn amateur," interlarded with the property of dealers and collectors at home and abroad. The publishers of the *American Journal of Philately* announce that the sale will certainly bring eight hundred dollars under the hammer! Perhaps it may; and, if such a result should follow in the wake of an unsuccessful sale, we shall most assuredly make a note of it. This ends the first lesson.

LOOKING AHEAD.

We clip the following interesting philatelic scrap from the war correspondence of the *Philadelphia Bulletin*:

"A friend has just left, who showed me during his call some letters he received, yesterday, by post from Alsace and Lorraine. They have on them Prussian stamps of 20 centimes. It is evident these stamps were prepared before the war. They are not German stamps but specially made for the invaded department. They have on them *Prusse* in French, and only the figures 20 cent., without any national effigy."

UNIQUE LOCAL STAMP.

Robert C. Davis, Esq., of this city, has a Greenville, Alabama postage stamp taken from a letter which passed through the Greenville office during the rebellion. We shall give a description of this unique local in the next number of this magazine.

PRICED CATALOGUE OF NEW YORK POSTAGE STAMP SALE.

MAY 28, 1870.

(Continued.)

- 6 varieties, large Canada, Law stamps, used. 60 cents.
- 1 4 reals, brown, 1858, Buenos Ayres, used. \$3 00.
- 1 2 reals, blue, 1858, Buenos Ayres, used. 50 cents.
- 1 12 cuartos, orange, 1859, Spain, cancelled. 50 cents.
- 1 yellow, Austria, Mercury, used, warranted original. \$2 75.
- 1 5 centavos, yellow, 1861, New Granada, used. \$1 00.
- 1 50 centavos, Bolivia, unused. \$1 75.
- 1 1 penny, yellow, 1857, Natal, used, original. 75 cents.
- 1 6 pence, green, 1857, Natal, used, original. \$1 12.
- 1 4 cents, blue, 1852, British Guiana, torn but all there 60 cents.
- 7 scarce old Spain, 5 and 10 reals, 1851, 12 cuartos and 5 reals, 1852, 5 reals, 1853, 2 and 5 reals, 1854, all used but in good condition. \$4 75.
- 4 scarce old Spain, same as last. \$2.
- 2 scarce Luzon, used. \$2 25.

Unused stamps in perfect order. This collection contain 625, many good stamps, amongst which may be named Mexico, Spain, New Granada and others. 11.

1 Trinidad, 1857, brown on blue paper, very slightly cancelled. \$1 25.

1 1 real, blue, Corrientes. \$1.

1 red lithograph, Trinidad, very slightly cancelled, warranted original. \$1 50.

1 4 cents, blue, 1853, British Guiana, used. 80 cents.

An exceedingly scarce proof of New Brunswick, with heads of Connel and Queen Victoria. \$2 25.

(To be continued.)



LARGE COIN SALE.

THE CELEBRATED FEWSMITH CABINET OF
COINS, MEDALS, ETC.,

CONTAINING NEARLY 3000 LOTS, OR ABOUT 5000 PIECES,
INCLUDING MANY RARE AND VALUABLE SPECIMENS, WILL BE OFFERED AT
PUBLIC SALE, BY CATALOGUE, AT THE ROOMS OF
LEAVITT, STREBEIGH & CO.,
CLINTON HALL, ASTOR PLACE, NEW YORK,
ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 4, 1870, AT 5½ O'CLOCK,
TO CONTINUE FOUR DAYS.

Orders promptly executed by Henry Cook, No. 74 Friend Street, Boston ;
Edward Cogan, No. 95 William Street, New York ; A. C. Kline and Mason
& Co., Philadelphia ; and by the Auctioneers.

FLAGS OF ALL NATIONS.

Large chart, containing flags of all nations, with description of countries,
population, rulers, etc., colored, 25 cents.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

FLAGS OF IRELAND.

Historical view of Ireland's flags, in colors, 15 cents.

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MAPS OF THE WAR.

Bird's eye view of the seat of war in Europe, colored, 25 cents.

Plan of Paris and its surroundings, colored, 15 cents.

“ “ “ plain, 10 cents.

European war map, colored, 25 cents.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

LITHOGRAPHS.

King William, of Prussia, *large*, 50 cents.

Prussian Generals, *large*, each 25 cents.


Photographic carte de visites of King William, of Prussia, and his
Generals, from life, 25 cents.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

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Fine lot of coins of all nations, large and small, all different, \$5 per hundred.

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coins on sale, with price of each.

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